



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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DRABA DENSIFOLIA
DENSE LEAF DRABA

Dense-leaf Draba is a mat-forming perennial with clusters of basal leaves and leafless stems 3-15 cm high, arising from numerous rootcrown branches that are covered with old leaf bases. The fleshy, narrowly lance-shaped leaves are 2-12 mm long and have a prominent midvein and straight, unbranched hairs on the entire margins but are otherwise mostly glabrous. 3-15 stalked flowers are borne at the tops of the stems. Each flower has 4 separate sepals, 4 separate, yellow petals that are 2-6 mm long, and 4 long and 2 short stamens. The style is 0.5-1.0 mm long. The hairy, egg-shaped capsules are 2-7 mm long and are borne on erect or ascending stalks. Flowering from May-July, depending on elevation.

This species can be distinguished from *DRABA OLIGOSPERMA* by simple hairs, from *D. DAVIESIAE* by the pubescent fruits, and from most other species in our area by the leafless stem in combination with a distinct style 0.5-1 mm long. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.